



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Misc

1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

April 29, 2002

To: Governor's Office, Todd O'Hair, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office

Parks Division

Lands Section

FWP Commissioners

Wildlife Division

Design & Construction

Legal Unit

Fisheries Division

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1201

Montana State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103

Montana State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624

Gallatin County Commissioners

Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771-1571

Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Glenn Hockett, Gallatin Wildlife Association, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715

Tom Sather, Headwaters Fish & Game Association, P.O. Box 1941, Bozeman, MT 59771-1941

Perry Backus, 65 Redtail, Dillon, MT 59725

John Gatchell, Montana Wilderness Association, P.O. Box 635, Helena, MT 59624

Public Lands Access Association, William Fairhurst, Box 247, Three Forks, MT 59752

Jack Atcheson, State Lands Coalition, 3210 Ottawa Street, Butte, MT 59701

Scott McMillion, P.O. Box 1226, Livingston, MT 59047

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please find attached to this cover letter an Environmental Assessment pertaining to a request by a private easement holder across a portion of the Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site to convert the easement to a public easement in order to develop private property to the north of the FAS.

Comments on this proposal will be accepted through 5 p.m., May 1, 2002. Comments should be directed to Jerry Walker, Regional Parks Manager, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1400 S. 19th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718, (406) 994-3552, or to gwalker@montana.edu.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Flowers
Regional Supervisor

Enclosure

Gallatin

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action:** Convert private easement to public easement and relocate easement across Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Fishing Access Site.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:** M.C.A. 87-1-209.

3. **Name of Project:** Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site Easement Conversion and Relocation

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**

Michael W. Delaney & Ileana Indreland
101 E. Main Street
Bozeman, MT 59715 (406) 586-3132

5. **If Applicable:**

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Summer, 2002

Estimated Completion Date: Summer, 2002

Current Status of Project Design (% complete): N/A

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**

Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site, Gallatin County, Section 22, Township 1 South, Range 4 East

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

(a) Developed:
residential..... __ acres
industrial __ acres

(d) Floodplain10__ acres

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation __ acres

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland..... __ acres
dry cropland __ acres
forestry __ acres
rangeland..... __ acres
other..... __ acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas __ acres

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

1. "Mapquest" site vicinity map
2. Cameron Bridge FAS site map
3. Delaney Minor Subdivision site plan

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

Michael W. Delaney, possessor of a private easement across a portion (approximately 120 linear feet) of the Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS), located in Gallatin County on the Gallatin River about 2 miles south of Belgrade, Montana, has requested to convert the private easement to a public easement. He has additionally asked to relocate the easement approximately 50 feet to the east of the current easement location. See attached map for locations of existing easements and proposed easement relocation. As a part of this proposal, Mr. Delaney will formally abandon rights to a second easement approximately 200 feet to the west near the Gallatin River. The easement to be abandoned, and the existing easement to be moved will be reclaimed by Mr. Delaney. Reclamation work will involve scarifying the old roadbed and planting grass seed. Large rocks will be placed along the county road, from the Gallatin River Bridge to approximately 20 feet to the east of the easement to be abandoned, to prevent off-road vehicle travel. Mr. Delaney would also be permitted to remove brushy vegetation on either side of the intersection of the relocated easement and the county road to improve sight lines.

The conversion of the easement from private to public will allow access to property (40.02 acres) Mr. Delaney is developing to the north of the Fishing Access Site. The easement relocation will provide alignment with the access road on Mr. Delaney's property and result in a perpendicular intersection with the county road, which will enhance traffic safety. Mr. Delaney is proposing to develop two parcels into four lots varying in size from 8.66 to 10 acres.

If the easement conversion and relocation is ultimately approved, the easement holder (Mr. Delaney) will be required to abandon the two existing easements and reclaim the roads on those easements. It will further be required that large rocks be placed parallel to the county road to prevent vehicles from being driven onto the abandoned easements. In order to mitigate future impacts, the easement, if granted, will contain additional language to the following effect:

- A. This easement provides access to private property through a public recreation site. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks intends to be a good neighbor to private homeowners adjacent to this public Fishing Access Site, but will not take measures to shield private homeowners from potential impacts of legal, typical, or historic public use of this site.
- B. The Gallatin River periodically floods low-lying areas throughout the vicinity of this Fishing Access Site. FWP will not attempt to prevent flooding that arises on the Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site and inundates surrounding private property.

The requested conversion and relocation of the easement should not significantly impact use of the Fishing Access Site by the public. Most public use areas are to the south of the county road.

This proposal must be considered and approved by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission. The FWP Commission must approve all land transaction matters of the agency. The decision notice resulting from this Environmental Assessment will be in the form of a recommendation to the FWP Commission. Additional approval by the National Park Service will be required because of expenditure of Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund dollars on land acquisition and facility improvements at this Fishing Access Site.

10. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

Agency Name _____ Permit _____ Date Filed/# _____

N/A

(b) Funding:

Agency Name _____ Funding Amount _____

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Administrative expenses to prepare and distribute the Environmental Assessment and to prepare new easement documents, if approved.

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name _____ Type of Responsibility _____

U.S. National Park Service

Land & Water Conservation Fund encumbrance.

Montana Department of Transportation

Approval of new easement approach to county road.

11. **List of Agencies Consulted during Preparation of the EA:**

None

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [*]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [*]	Comment Index
	Unknown [*]	None	Minor [*]	Potentially Significant		
►a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		X	See 1b. below
►c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other: None						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 1b. Relocation of the existing easement will result in disruption, compaction and over-covering of soil over an area approximately 120 feet in length and 60 feet in width. This would be mitigated by reclamation of the existing easement road and a second easement road to approximately 250 feet to the west. The easement holder of these two reclaimed easement roads would formally abandon their right these easements under this proposal.

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [*]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [*]	Comment Index
	Unknown [*]	None	Minor [*]	Potentially Significant		
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X			See 2a. below
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
◆e. For P-R/D-I projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a) N/A						
f. Other: None						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 2a. Construction equipment typically used for road building activities may emit small amounts of air pollution during the construction phase of this proposal. These impacts would be limited and of a short duration. No lasting impacts would be expected.

☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?			X			See 3c. below
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?			X			See 3e. below
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
♦♦l. For P-R/D-I, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c) N/A						
♦m. For P-R/D-I, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a) N/A						
n. Other: <u>None</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 3c & e. The existing and proposed easement approaches lie in areas frequently inundated by floodwaters. While relocating the approach will not necessarily significantly alter floodplain characteristics over existing conditions, the fact remains that people using the approach and easement may be exposed to flooding hazards.

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

4. VEGETATION	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		X	See 4a. below
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		X	See 4e. below
♦♦f. For P-R/D-I, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland? N/A						
g. Other: None						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 4a. Relocation of the existing easement road will require disturbance to existing vegetation (primarily grasses and shrubs) in an area approximately 120 feet in length by 60 feet in width. The proposed new road was located to avoid any large trees. To mitigate the vegetative lost at the location of the proposed new road, two existing easement roads will be reclaimed. Reclamation work will include scarification of the old roadbed and planting of native grasses. It is expected that endemic plant species will eventually reclaim the old roadbeds.
- 4b. The potential for establishment of noxious weeds in the reclaimed roadbeds is high. Weed control activities will be vigorously performed according to guidelines established in the Region Three Noxious Weed Management Plan and could include mechanical methods (mowing), chemical herbicide application, and the release of biological insects.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

► 5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
♦♦h. For P-R/D-I, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f) N/A						
♦i. For P-R/D-I, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d) N/A						
j. Other: None						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: None						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

7. LAND USE	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?			X			See 7c. below
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: <u>None</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 7c. The proposed conversion of the existing private easement to a public easement is not entirely compatible with a public recreation area (Fishing Access Site). In order to mitigate this potential compatibility problem, FWP will condition the easement conversion with statements regarding the purposes of the site for public use, and the potential for flooding of the Gallatin River (see condition statements on page 2).

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			X			See 8c below
♦d. For P-R/D-L, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a) N/A						
e. Other: <u>None</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 8c. As mentioned under Section 3. Water, people using the easement may be subjected to flooding hazards.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT	IMPACT [*]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [*]	Comment Index
	Unknown [*]	None	Minor [*]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in: Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?			X			See 9a. below
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: <u>None</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 9a. The proposed conversion of the private easement across a portion of the Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site to a public easement is necessary for the easement holder to develop homesites on the property accessed by the easement. This homesite development will alter the location, distribution, and growth rate of the human population of the area.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT [*]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [*]	Comment Index
	Unknown [*]	None	Minor [*]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in: Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
► e. Define projected revenue sources		X				
► f. Define projected maintenance costs.		X				
g. Other: <u>None</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

▶ 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
▶c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
◆d. For P-R/D-I, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c) N/A						
e. Other: None						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
▶a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				See 12a. below
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
◆◆d. For P-R/D-I, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)						
e. Other: None						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 12a. There is a low likelihood that cultural, historic or paleontological resources would be impacted by this proposal. Attached is the letter of clearance from the State Historic Preservation office.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT [*]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [*]	Comment Index
	Unknown [*]	None	Minor [*]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
♦f. For P-R/D-I, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e) N/A						
♦♦g. For P-R/D-I, list any federal or state permits required. N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)

2. **Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

No Action Alternative:

Consideration of this alternative would mean denying the current easement holder the opportunity to convert the easement from a private easement to a public easement. Implementation of this alternative would not allow FWP to consolidate the two existing private easements into one public easement and have the roadbeds reclaimed and revegetated. The impacts of the proposed action are minimal and can be accommodated without impacting public use of the Cameron Fishing Access Site.

3. **Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**

The primary mitigation measure for this proposal is the reclamation of two existing road easements and the placement of barriers to impede off road vehicle use to the north of the county road onto state fishing access site property.

PART III. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

1. **Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:**

An EIS is **not** required for this proposed action. An environmental assessment (EA) is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action as impacts to the natural and human environment are few and minor.

2. **Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

The EA will be distributed to FWP's standard distribution list, fishing access site neighbors, and others requesting a copy of the document. Availability of the EA will be advertised in a legal notice printed in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle and Helena Independent Record newspapers.

3. **Duration of comment period, if any:**

A 30-day public comment period will be conducted for review of this proposed action. The comment period will commence on April 1, 2002 and end at 5 p.m., May 1, 2002. Questions or comments on the proposed action should be directed to Jerry Walker, Regional Parks Manager, at the mailing address, e-mail address or phone number printed below.

4. **Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:**

Jerry Walker
Regional Parks Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 S. 19th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718

Phone number: (406) 994-4042

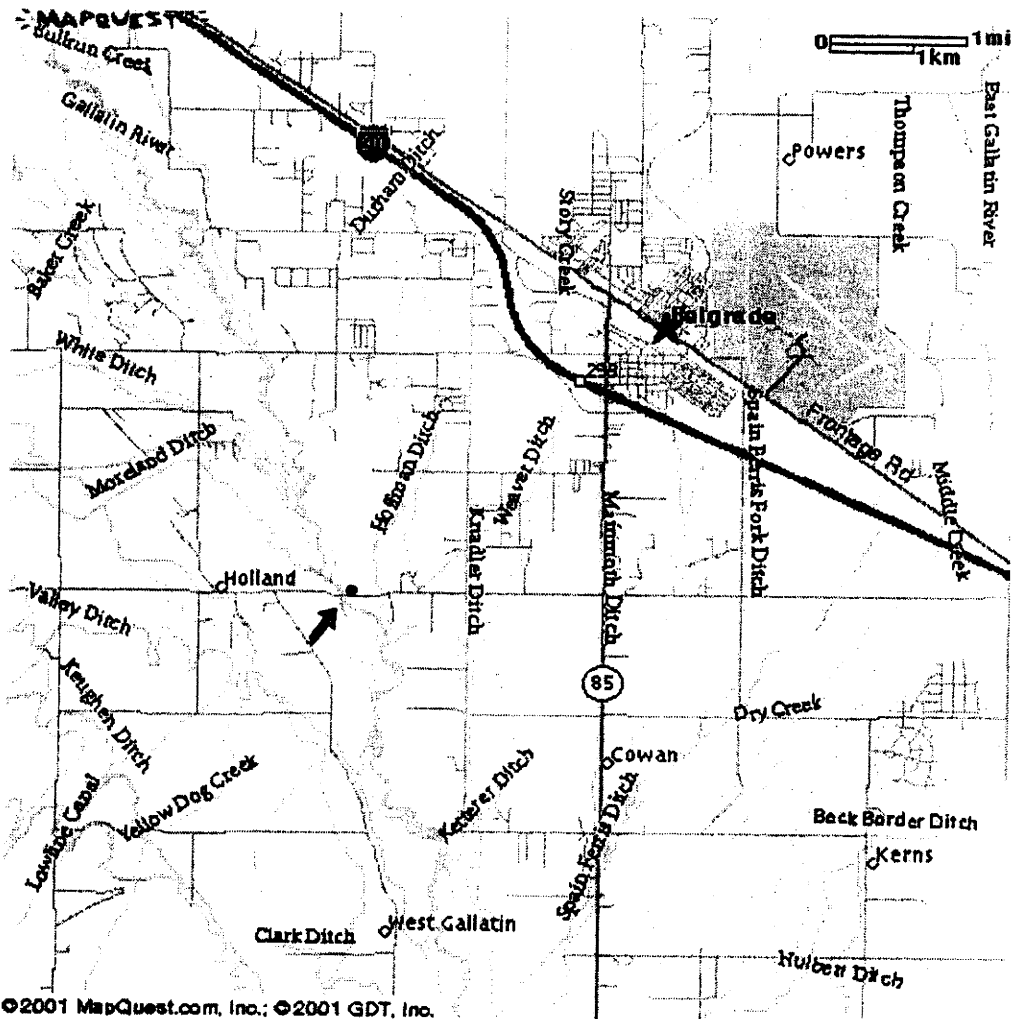
Or e-mail comments to: gwalker@montana.edu

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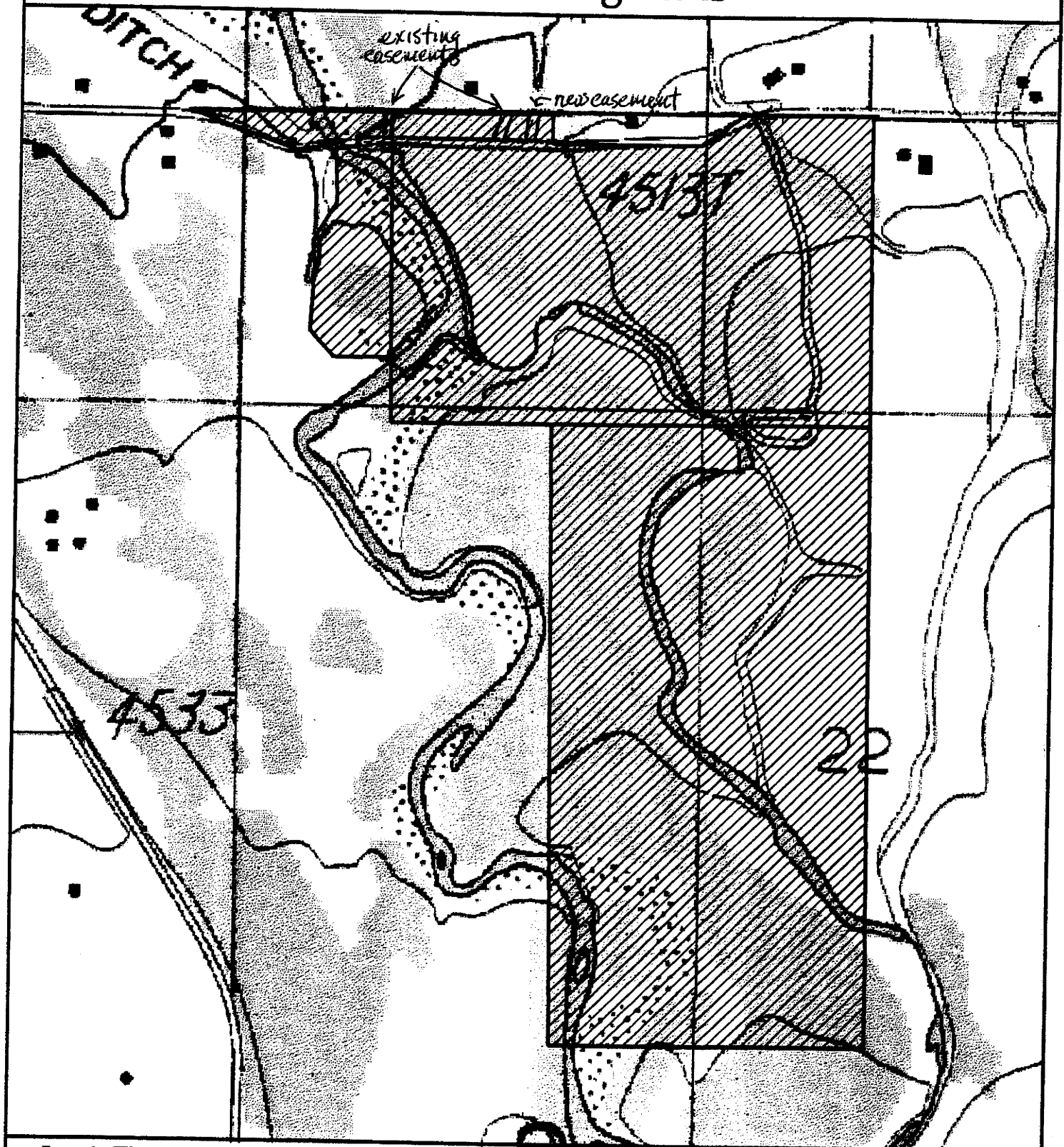
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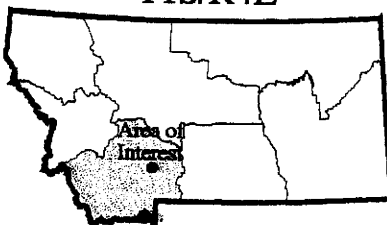
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Cameron Bridge FAS



Lands File Number: 3253

T1S/R4E



149.243 acres



Fee Simple
FAS Parcel

0 acres

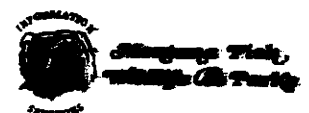


Leased
FAS Parcel

0 500 1000

Scale in feet
Scale 1:7000

Fishing Access Sites (FAS) are digitized and maintained by the Information Services Unit of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. FAS's were digitized at 1:24,000 using the COGO module of Arc/Info. The background image is a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle digital raster graphic.



Map produced by NRIS,
request# 00FWP6 - September 21, 1999



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ♦ P.O. Box 201201 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1201
♦ (406) 444-2694 ♦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ♦ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ♦

February 26, 2002

Paul Valle
MT FWP
Design and Construction Bureau
600 North Park Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RECEIVED
FEB 27 2002
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

RE: CAMERON BRIDGE FAS ROAD EASEMENT. SHPO Project #: 2002022602

Dear Paul:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project. According to our records there has been one previously recorded site within proximity to the project area. Site 24GA0829 is the historic Cameron Bridge. If you wish to obtain further information on these locales you may contact the University of Montana Archaeological Records Office at (406) 243-5525. The absence of more cultural properties in the area does not mean that they do not exist but rather may reflect the absence of any previous cultural resource inventory in the area, as our records indicated none.

We feel that because the area of the new easement is located in an active floodway that there is a low likelihood that cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. Thank you for consulting with us.

If you have any further questions or comments you may contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at dmurdo@state.mt.us.

Sincerely,

Damon Murdo
Cultural Records Manager

File: FWP/FISH/2002